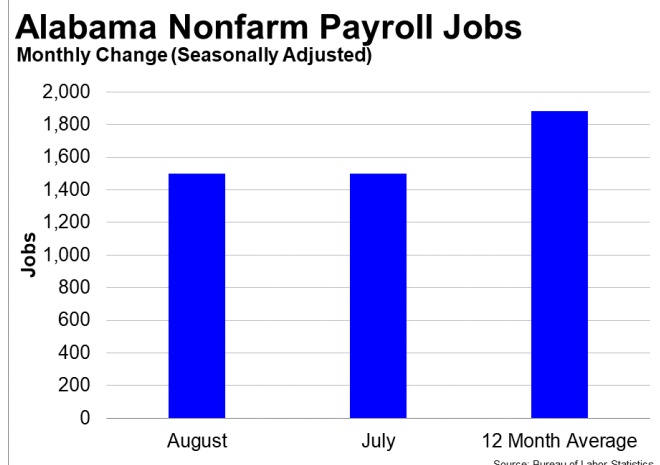
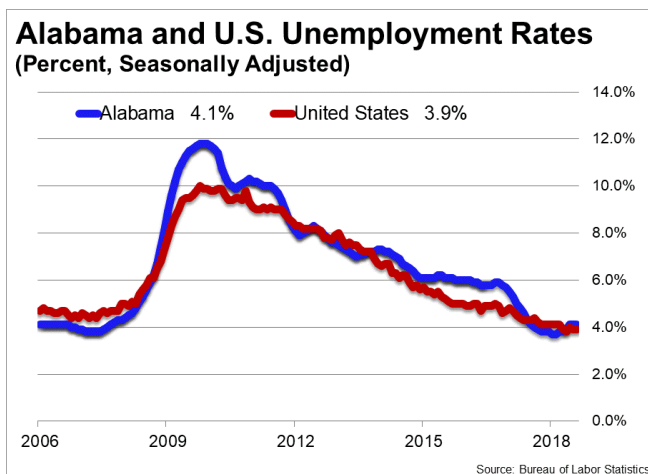


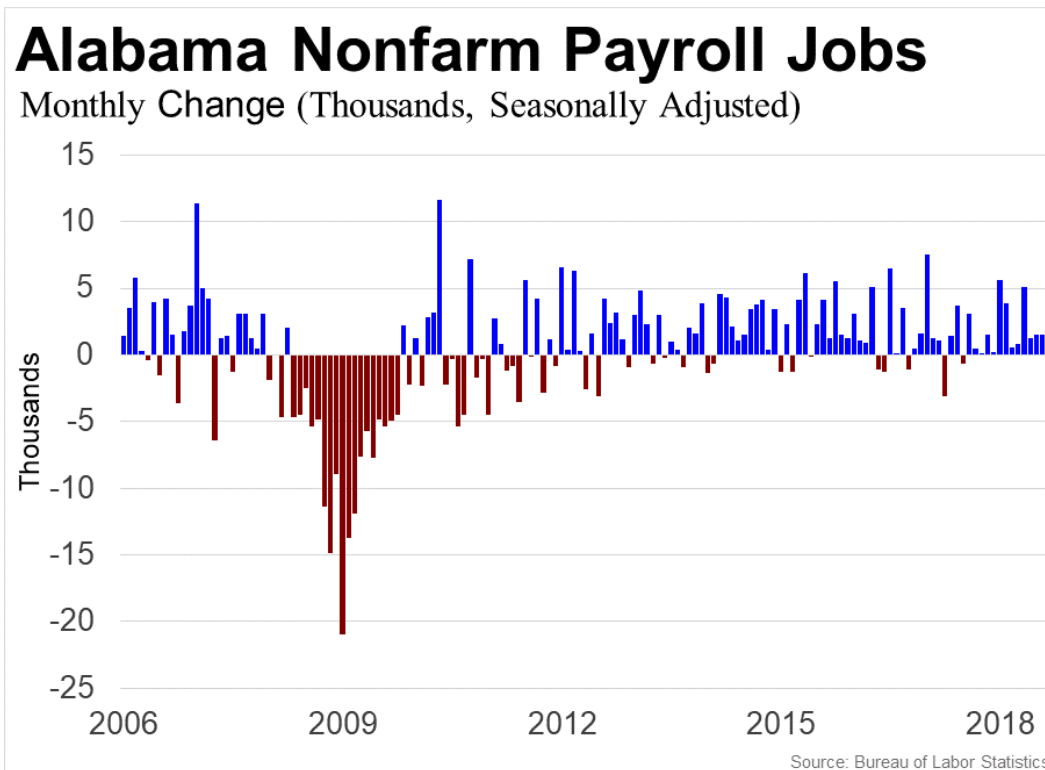


September 21, 2018

## Summary

- **Alabama added 1,500 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent in August** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Alabama added 22,600 jobs** and the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point from 4 percent.
- **In August, Alabama's private sector payrolls remain unchanged** and over the past twelve months it created 22,800 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Alabamans rose by 283 in August**, and over the past year 32,101 Alabamans found jobs.
- Alabama's **labor force participation rate increased to 57.3 percent** from 57.1 percent in August. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.8 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **was unchanged at 3.9 percent in August**. State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 19, 2018. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 5, 2018.





### **Alabama Payroll Employment**

Alabama added 1,500 jobs, or 0.07 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Alabama added 1,500 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Alabama increased by 22,600, or 1.12 percent. Alabama nonfarm payroll employment has increased in each of the past 12 months.

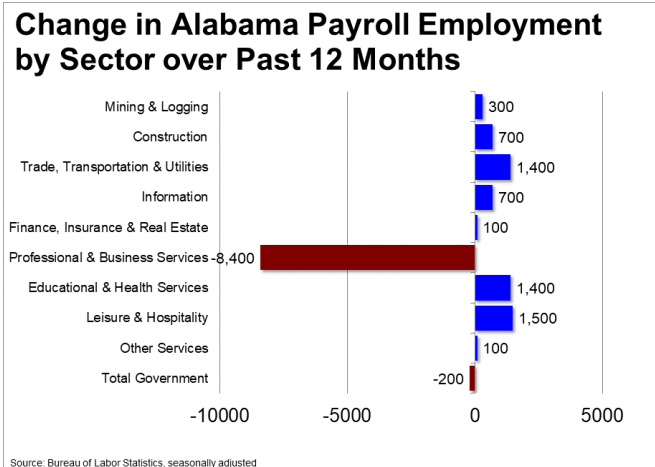
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 201,000 jobs in August, or 0.13 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2018, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,330,000 jobs, or 1.59 percent. Alabama ranks 22nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Alabama's private-sector was unchanged. The private-sector in Alabama added 1,700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Alabama increased by 22,800, or 1.40 percent. Alabama private-sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 204,000 jobs in August, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,329,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.87 percent. Alabama ranks 25th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Professional & Business Services (+1,700) and Total Government (+1,500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-1,000) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+1,500) and Educational & Health Services (+1,400). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (-8,400) and Total Government (-200).



## Alabama Labor Force Statistics

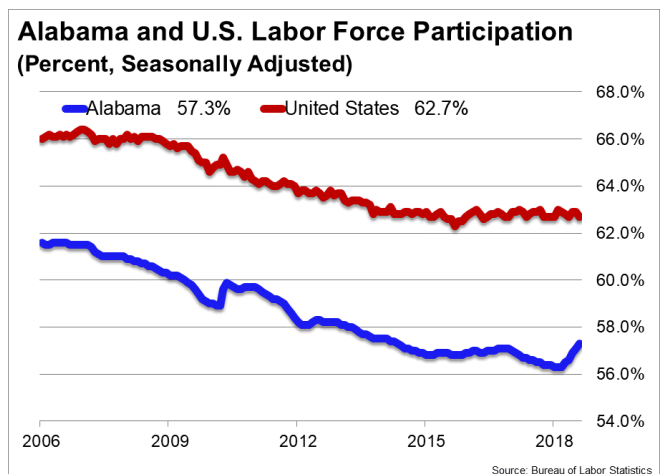
### *Labor Force Participation*

The labor force participation rate in Alabama rose to 57.3 percent in August from 57.1 percent the prior month. At 57.3 percent, Alabama has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Alabama is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Alabama was 60.5 percent in September 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Alabama occurred in August 1997 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.7 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 56.3 percent in March 2018. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Alabama. The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.7 percent in August 2018, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

### *Employment-to-Population Ratio*

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Alabama civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 54.9 percent in August from 54.7 percent the prior month. At 54.9 percent, Alabama has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios



in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Alabama is 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alabama was 56.7 percent in September 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alabama occurred in December 1997 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 52.1 percent in February 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 50.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.2 percentage point to 60.3 percent in August. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

